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## INSIDE



### Mayors Meeting

Over 200 mayors from different states and territories converged in Boston, Massachusetts, for the 72nd United States Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting held June 25-29, 2004.

Page 8



### ARC is 15

As Aqua Resort Club celebrates its 15th anniversary on Saipan this month, its management revealed that the hotel is mulling renovation plans to maintain the establishment's competitiveness in the industry.

Page 17



### Overstretched

In a bipartisan show of concern that the military is dangerously overworked, lawmakers said Wednesday the Pentagon is stretching troops to their limit and perhaps undermining the nation's future force.

Page 22

# Jollibee outlet shuts down

By JOHN RAVELO  
REPORTER

**C**iting business losses amid a fragile economy, the company operating the Jollibee restaurants on Saipan yesterday confirmed the closure of their Chalan Kanoa outlet beginning July 1.

YCO Corp., Jollibee's franchise hold-

er on Saipan, said sales of the Chalan Kanoa restaurant dropped to alarming levels, prompting the management to decide on the closure in early June.

YCO general manager Ralph Yumul said the restaurant was supposed to shut down operations on June 15, but the company eventually decided to extend operations to June 30.

"What we did is temporarily shut it

down," said Yumul, who added, however, that "we have no plans yet to reopen it."

Yumul said the management projected a downtrend in sales. He refused to divulge the amount of losses incurred by the restaurant.

"From the business standpoint, the island is not stable. It has a very unpredictable economy," he said. "Our present economy can either switch from bad to worse, from

worse to bad, and bad to better."

The general manager said only one part-time employee got laid off. He said six other employees were transferred to Jollibee's main branch in Garapan, while three others were absorbed by YCO's holding companies.

Besides the Jollibee restaurants, YCO owns the Liberty Plaza department store,

See JOLLIBEE on Page 12



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### NAVAL GRADUATE

Midshipman Caroline Lynch (in uniform) from the CNMI poses with family and friends after taking her oath during induction at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Among those present at the induction ceremony were her mother, Margaret P. Lynch, and other family members. Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio was represented at the ceremony by Emet L. Saures and Francisco R. Agulto, along with his wife, Elizabeth B. Agulto.

## JGO to beef up anti-prostitution law

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO  
REPORTER

There is a need to enhance current anti-prostitution laws to ensure the success of the government's effort to clamp down on the flesh trade on Saipan, according to Rep. Clyde Norita.

Norita disclosed yesterday that the

House Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations is now looking at ways on how to improve current laws that would help eradicate prostitution activities in the tourist district.

Norita also said the committee hopes to meet with the Attorney General's Office and the Labor Department so these agencies could advise the Legislature on

the appropriate measures they need to combat the prostitution problem.

The congressman pointed out that one way to prevent these illegal activities would be to regulate massage parlors in the CNMI to ensure that these are not being used as fronts for prostitution.

"We should regulate these massage

See JGO on Page 12

## US Labor allots money for senior citizens' jobs

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO  
REPORTER

The CMMI Office of Aging has received funding assistance from the U.S. Department of Labor to provide subsidized part-time employment opportunities for low-income senior citizens.

Governor's press information officer Peter Callaghan disclosed yesterday that the grant, amounting to \$328,987, was allotted through the Senior Community Service Employment Program of the U.S. Labor Department. This project will provide subsidized part-time employment opportunities for low-income individuals aged 55 and over.

Callaghan explained that under the conditions of the grant, the Office of Personnel Management will announce part-time employment opportunities for seniors to include

See US LABOR on Page 12

## Iraqi militants threaten to behead Filipino

By MAAMOUN YOUSSEF  
AP WRITER

**CAIRO, Egypt (AP)**—Armed Iraq insurgents threatened to kill a Filipino hostage if his country does not withdraw from Iraq, according to a video that aired Wednesday. The Philippines responded hours later by ordering a halt to further deployment.

See IRAQI on Page 12

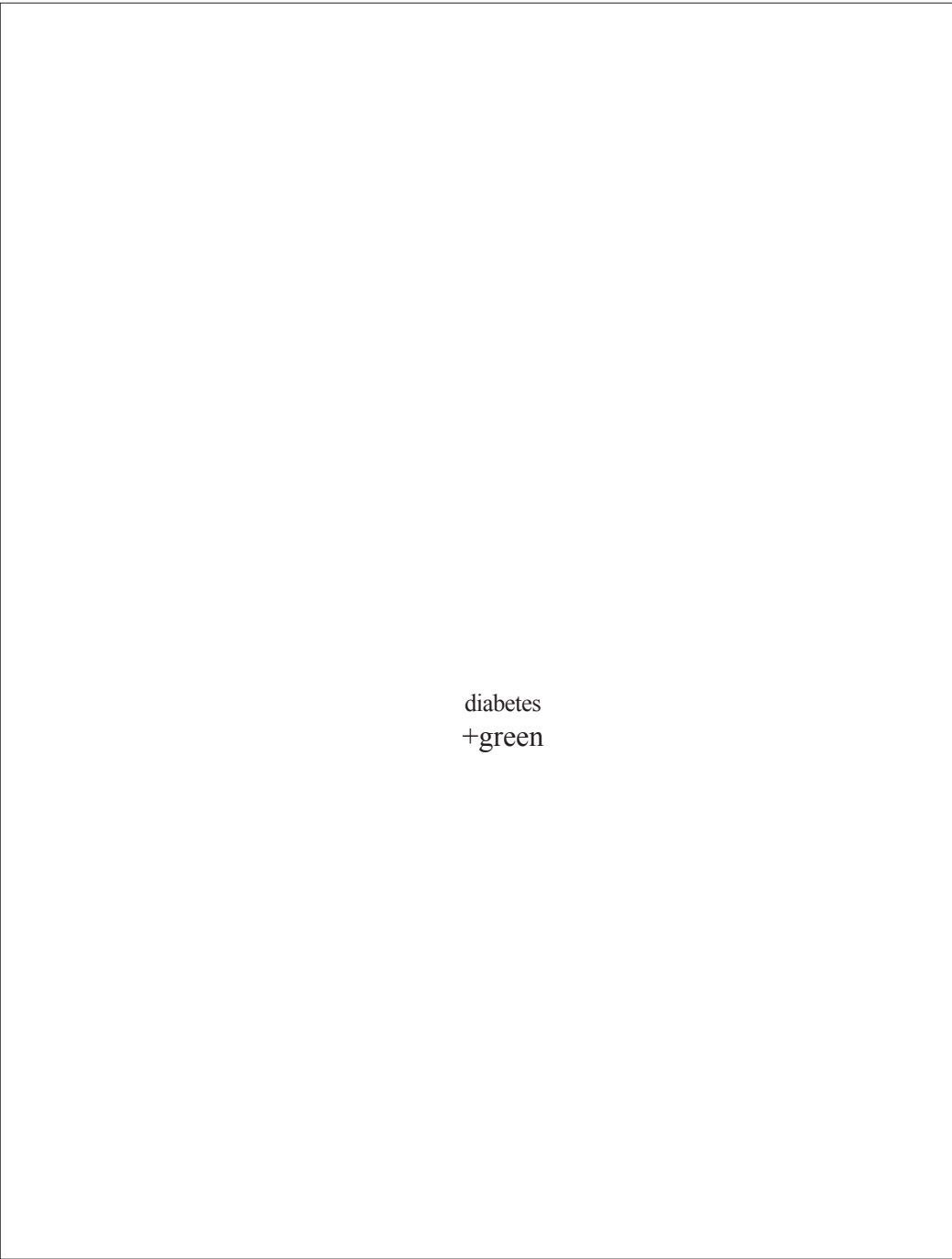
This is an image taken from footage by pan-Arab TV channel Al-Jazeera broadcast Wednesday July 7, 2004, purporting to show armed men reading a statement with a Filipino hostage wearing orange.

AP

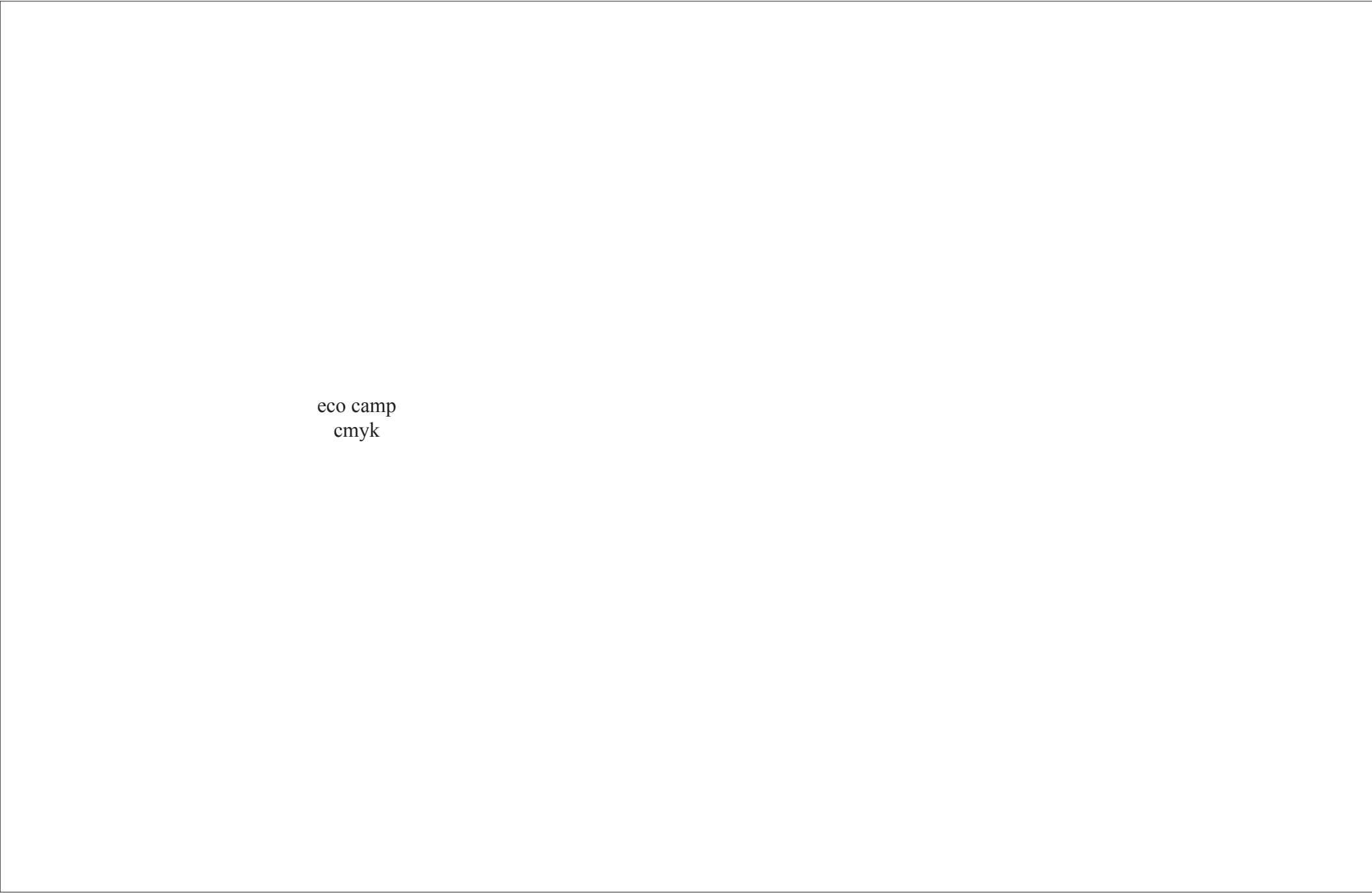




# Local



diabetes  
+green



eco camp  
cmyk

# NMC board approves only one instructor for lab school

By **AGNES E. DONATO**  
REPORTER

Citing budget constraints, the Northern Marianas College board of directors yesterday approved the hiring of only one of three instructors requested by the college laboratory school.

The NMC board made this decision along with the lifting of the hiring freeze for five other positions. These positions are college president, nursing instructor, education instructor, computer instructor, and counselor.

“The board has decided to lift the freeze for several essential positions that have been recognized as a priority for the institution. This would keep us within the limits of the available funding that we have until the end of the fiscal year,” NMC chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said at the board’s special meeting yesterday.

The decision adopts the recommendation made by the college administration headed by acting NMC president Tony Deleon Guerrero. It was reached after the administration’s findings gained four affirmative votes from the six-member board. Director Margarita Olopai-Taitano voted “no.” She said she did not find the hiring of an instructor for the lab school, which had been “mismanaged,” a priority for NMC.

For his part, director Galvin Guerrero abstained, saying he could not make an informed decision based on the data laid out during the meeting.

Earlier, parents of lab school students have pressed for the immediate hiring of three new teachers, as they expressed concerns over the planned closure of the school in Finasisu and its transfer to the Public School System.

The school, which offers kin-

dergarten to 8th grade, has only two teachers left. It needs at least three more teachers to handle the upper grade levels, they said.

But the acting NMC president said the college has been losing money because of the lab school. “Because of our current financial situation, as well as the overall financial situation of the CNMI government, we need to live within our means. So we’re doing our own internal analysis on trying to improve the quality of our educational programs and services here at NMC. We are exploring the possibility of collaborating closer with PSS, so we can minimize our expenditures in operating the lab school,” Deleon Guerrero said.

For her part, lab schoolteacher Geri Willis said the institution will just have to contend with one new instructor.

“I think the board did an

excellent job on their decision. It was a difficult decision to make because there are so many departments that are in need. Of course, we’d like to have every one of the positions filled, but again we have to meet WASC’s requirements as far as fiscal responsibility,” Willis said.

A total of 58 students have registered with the lab school as of June 18.

WASC is the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, whose accrediting commission

had placed the college on warning status in January due to its failure to submit annual audit reports on time in the past few years.

The warning status remained despite a recent trip by King-Hinds

and Deleon Guerrero to meet with WASC officials in California.

WASC, according to Deleon Guerrero, required the college to submit a progress report by Oct. 15, 2004.

cb cruz

## Rota opened under restrictions

By **AGNES E. DONATO**  
REPORTER

The Rota seaport has been opened under certain restrictions that include a ban on night entry.

Saipan seaport Antonio Cabrera yesterday said some vessels may now access the Rota seaport, which was closed due to the devastation caused by typhoon Tingting.

Cabrera, however, added that some restrictions have been put in place to ensure the safety of the entering vessels.

Berth No. 1 of the west Rota harbor has been designated as the only safe area for operation, as Berth No. 2 is still being assessed by divers.

The restrictions apply to ships that have a gross tonnage of over 200 tons and exceed 150 feet long. Vessels that draw a draft of over 15 feet are also not

allowed to enter the harbor.

The draft refers to the depth of a vessel’s keel below the water line, especially when loaded.

Still, Cabrera maintained that the restrictions are expected to have little impact on commerce in the island, as tankers and big passenger ships utilize the east harbor.

He added that barges are allowed into the west Rota harbor since they draw a shallow draft.

Meanwhile, business is back to normal at the port of Saipan.

“Everybody is busy catching up on the backlog from the typhoon,” Cabrera said.

In a meeting with port operators yesterday, he and CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas commended the port operators for implementing an effective contingency plan during the typhoon.

“We were able to minimize a

lot of damage in the port because of the efforts by each port tenant, especially Saipan Stevedore, which secured containers and prevented cargos from getting wet and dragged out into the sea during the storm,” Cabrera said.

He added that even the port service vessels such as tugboats, had their own contingency plan.

“All their efforts helped us open up the port for commerce immediately after the storm,” he said.

cars unlimited

mcdo  
cmyk

lottery

COMMUNITY

Briefs

OWWA open on Sundays

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office would like to inform the Filipino community that starting this month, the OWWA office will be open on Sundays from 10am to 5pm to be able to better serve OFWs in Saipan.

MHS shelter opens

Effective immediately, shelter is open at Marianas High School. All individuals seeking shelter must report to Jose Borja at the Administration Office at Marianas High School to register. If you need transportation assistance, contact 664-3800, 3801, 3802.

NMC English placement tests

Following is the schedule of our upcoming English Placement Tests:

Thursday	July 29	Room D-1	1pm-4pm
Friday	July 30	Room D-1	5:30pm-8:30pm
Thursday	November 4	Room D-1	1pm-4pm
Friday	November 5	Room D-1	5:30pm-8:30pm

There is a \$25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at NMC's Finance Office (M-F, 9am-4pm). Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment—a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee.

All students seeking a degree and/or certificate are required to take the English placement test.

Residential, biz inspections in Kagman II village

The Division of Environmental Quality and the Bureau of Environmental Health would like to inform the residents of Kagman II village that On-site Disposal System and premise compliance inspections would be conducted on residential and business facilities. The inspections has been ongoing since April 21, 2004 and will continue to be conducted every Tuesday and Wednesday.

Kagman II residents are requested to cooperate with inspectors in keeping their dog(s) on a leash, for the safety of the inspectors. Both BEH and DEQ inspectors are required to wear their respective uniforms and photo identification during all inspections.

For additional information on the OSDS inspections, contact the BEH office at 664-4870/2 or the DEQ office at 664-8500/1.

Pag-IBIG refunds available

Pag-IBIG overseas program members from 1996 to January 1998 can now apply for a refund of their total contributions plus the 3-percent dollar interest tax-free.

“Just fill out a refund application form and you will receive your refund in U.S. dollars. After getting your refund, you can be a member again by submitting a new pop membership form and contribute a minimum of \$5.00 per month,” according to a Pag-IBIG statement.

For a minimum contribution of \$5 a month, former members can also activate their Pag-IBIG membership also in the Philippines using the same Pag-IBIG ID number.

“Your contribution will be converted into Philippine pesos using the current conversion rate and it will earn a 7.5-percent peso interest. After 25 to 30 years from your initial contribution, you are entitled to a refund in Philippine peso of all your contribution including interest tax-free,” the agency said.

For more information, call the Pop Saipan Office at 235-4749 or visit the Pop Office at the ground floor of the Nauru Building in Susupe and look for information officer Lynell F. Fulgencio.

Victim hotline volunteers sought

Do you want to make a difference? Do you want to help out our community? Are you interested in issues such as domestic violence, child physical and sexual abuse, rape, or suicide?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, then you may be the right kind of person to become a Victim Hotline Volunteer. The Victim Hotline is a 24/7 telephone crisis intervention hotline that provides access to information, referral, and a listening ear to victims of crimes in the Northern Marianas.

Interested individuals may contact Velma Del Rosario at 234-5100.

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*All times listed are based on the current flight schedule. All times are subject to change without notice. All times are listed in local time. All times are listed in local time. All times are listed in local time. All times are listed in local time. All times are listed in local time. All times are listed in local time.									





# Nose art in WWII exhibit

**GUAM** (PDN/PIR)—When a war is over and the number of its survivors dwindles, future generations remember that war through the photographs, accounts and art that endures.

A few such relics that survived World War II are, for the first time, being exhibited this month at the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency gallery at Two Lovers’ Point.

The exhibit, organized by the National Park Service and the Arizona Memorial Museum Association, opened yesterday and will be displayed for the next month.

Featured is the new “Planes and Pinups: A Traveling Exhibit” about World War II airplane nose art, as well as several exhibits on loan from the Admiral Nimitz Museum in Texas.

The nose art exhibit was first featured in Saipan last month, where it was dedicated by one of the great nose artists of the Pacific Theater, Hal Olsen, who returned

to the Mariana Islands for the first time since he worked as a naval aviation mechanic in Tinian 60 years ago. During the war, Olsen told crowds in Saipan, he made extra money on the side by painting nose art with some paints he’d had the foresight to bring with him.

Nose art—mostly of semi-nude pinup girls or cartoon caricatures—was used to boost morale. Many of the planes that flew missions into enemy fire didn’t return.

The Nimitz Museum of Fredricksburg, Texas, lent the National Park Service five of its exhibits, three of which are currently displayed at the CAHA gallery. National Park Service personnel said the other exhibits will either be rotated into the gallery or displayed elsewhere on island.

Yesterday morning, tourist Tetsuo Fujita, 58 of Kyoto, Japan, was visiting the museum at Two Lovers’ Point. He said that

though he speaks only from the perspective of a generation that does not know war, he hopes the exhibits will help those who see it work toward peace.

“At one point, the Japanese military invaded the South Pacific and caused a lot of strife to the local population, and then the American military came and they (too) caused some strife, so neither are above the other,” he said.

“This (exhibit) shows that the scars of war still persist. From now on, each and every one of us must strive toward peace, and I hope that all the Japanese who see this (exhibit) walk away with that thought.”

The exhibit will be held at the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency gallery at Two Lovers’ Point for the next month. Gallery hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. The gallery is closed Sundays.

## Social Security to visit Tinian, Rota

Social Security representative Alfredo Quiroz will be making visits to Tinian and Rota next week. He will be available to receive applications for Social Security numbers, to discuss Social Security benefits and SSI payments and to provide information

about programs administered by Social Security.

Quiroz will visit Tinian on Monday, July 12, and will be available from 8:30am to 11:30am at the CCA Office at the gym in San Jose Village.

He will visit Rota on Friday, July 16, and will be available

from 8:45am to 12:30pm at the Aging Office in Sinapalo Village.

For more information, Tinian residents can call Social Security on Saipan toll free at 433-9421. Rota residents can call toll free at 532-9421. The local number on Saipan is 234-6203. **(PR)**

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# Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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## Letters to the Editor

Saipan Tribune welcomes contributions. All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name, address and, if possible, fax or telephone number. Letters are edited for space, clarity and fairness.

## Same tired, old speeches

For nearly three decades now, we've heard tired speeches about (addressing) water shortages here. We're far off the mark from resolution because we're stuck in the mud of address.

The speeches are as empty as the water pipes emplaced in Garapan, San Jose, Susupe, As Lito, As Perdido, San Vicente and Chalan Kanoa Villages.

Then came a new form of government solution: establishment of a water task force to address water problems island-wide. CUC pitched in by planning to retain a consultant to study more water problems we already know. It's a case of the right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing.

The basic premise is: islands throughout the Pacific have small water lenses or aquifers. Island communities suffer from the lack of water in prolonged drought season. It means far less water in aquifers to meet the growing demands of the community. But we've also employed Chamorro Logic by drilling more water wells around the same source only to pump brackish water during the dry season.

The obvious dilemma is the continuing expansion of this community. It needs more water to feed new residential developments, islandwide. The seeming answer is to proceed with desalination of salt water. Otherwise, we may have to revert to building more outside toilets to mitigate the lack of water.

Gentlemen, please spare us the same tired old intramural speeches that are as empty as the pipes in the villages, speeches that have been regurgitated for nearly 30 years.

**John S. DelRosario Jr.**  
Koblerville

## A response to Senator Reyes

Let me respond to Sen. Pete P. Reyes in the same venue in which he made his remarks (in the June 8 issue of this paper). Senator Reyes was unhappy that I did not consult with him prior to my voicing an opinion in my column, On My Mind (found on the web and in this paper's Sunday edition), about his reaction to the governor's veto of three of Senator Reyes' bills. The senator claimed that the vetoes were a personal reaction by the governor, and I disagreed.

Senator, I do not own a TV set. I get my information mainly from reading the two local papers. I often do call parties for information related to subjects I write about, and often obtain copies of, and read, related documents as well.

I did not do so in this case because, to the best of my recollection, in all the coverage given your unhappiness with the governor's vetoes, not once was any substantive argument included about the issues regarding Senate Bill 14-11, Senate Draft 1, which concerned DNA testing in paternity suits. There was no clue that the governor's reasoning was in error, and that your objections did, indeed, have factual grounds.

I know you are articulate, and do not hesitate to voice your opinion. Since I found no explanation of your position in the papers I made the assumption that, therefore, there were no real grounds for the position you were taking on this bill.

The other two bills that were vetoed—one, proposing to abolish celebration of President's Day so as to observe Martin Luther King day, and the other proposing to restrict Marianas Visitors Authority's hiring of nonresident workers—are both more a matter of opinion than a matter of fact, and there did not seem a need for further clarification.

I realize that there is a risk in depending on what the newspapers report and what they don't, on what approach they take. But I simply don't have the resources to verify every piece of newspaper-provided data that I use.

On the bright side, at least now, with your detailed explanation of why SB 14-11 should not have been vetoed, we may all understand what the real issue is. Indeed, perhaps it will encourage legislators to override the veto of this bill. It's a pity the explanation wasn't provided sooner.

Senator, I meant no disrespect. Our relationship has been a respectful one, and I hope it continues that way.

**Ruth L. Tighe**  
Tanapag, Saipan

## Why Reagan is a legend

If the Commonwealth had to pick a hero, Ronald Reagan would be a good choice. After all, it was President Reagan who conferred U.S. citizenship on the island folks, an act that has been followed by a gravy train of sweet moolah that puts the financial sucrose in the term Uncle Sugar.

Of course, if you go anywhere near the English-language media, they have soured the sweetness of Reagan's dignified stature by grinding in into mush with the millstones of Posthumous Saturation Coverage. Among all the romp in the pomp, though, I've gotten a lot of email questions from foreign readers, many of them workers or managers on Saipan, who are trying to gauge the American psyche on this matter. Namely, this: "What's the deal with Ronald Reagan? Why was he so popular?"

Well, that's a fair question. Let me see if I can cook up a fair answer.

You can't separate a man from his times, and Reagan secured the presidency in really bleak times for the United States. Not bleak as in crisis of Great Depression or WWII proportions, but bleak as in a vague and all encompassing despair, like a wet blanket had settled over the nation and was slowly smothering everyone's hopes. President Jimmy Carter just wasn't hitting the right buttons there in the Oval Office.

Inflation was roaring out of control, and I remember well those double-digit interest rates and the obscene, wealth-depleting costs of my parents' mortgage and car payments as they sweat the bills each month.

A gas crisis hit, and was countered with total incompetence.

And on the geopolitical stage, a handful of rag-tag Iranian yahoos holding U.S. hostages managed to geld Uncle Sam, while Carter looked like a deer frozen in headlights.

No disrespect intended to Mr. Carter, since he is a man of great intelligence and character. He just had lousy luck in Washington. And he had no knack for economics.

Still, lousy luck is, well, lousy, and economics is mighty unforgiving of messing up, and any way you looked at it back then, U.S.

## Examining the local mom-and-pop phenomenon

**Q** •Hafa Adai! I look forward to reading your column everyday and one thing for sure, you are truly impartial and that I surely appreciate. I have a few concerns that I would like to share with you and hopefully will be able to see you address one or two in your column.

**A** good number of mom-and-pop stores are operating businesses in small spaces with very limited merchandise and obviously run and managed daily by family members or attendants who could barely communicate in English. It just makes me wonder; how and in what ways do such businesses contribute to the CNMI economy. Are they simply operating such businesses as a front just so they can continue residing in the CNMI? I am sure that their income verse their living expenses is a big negative. Or are they reporting their business gross income?

Certainly, I am pleased to hear of your great interest—like many others—in my Q & A column. My purpose for this column is to enhance public awareness on issues of common interest in the community. It's my goal is to build a strong enough pressure from a well-informed public to compel the policymakers to develop and follow a socio-economic development plan that charts a successful development path for the people of the CNMI.

Let me begin my answer to your question by highlighting the socio-economic significance of small businesses, the so-called "mom-and-pop enterprises." This type of small business is primarily operated by the owner and his/her family members. Small businesses employ almost 60 percent of America's workers, contribute 50 percent of sales and account for half of private sector output. According to published government data, small and family owned businesses represented 98 percent of all U.S. employers, generated the third-largest economy in the world and contributed 50 percent of the gross domestic product in year 2000. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy, small firms made up nearly 90 percent of all exporters and produced one-fifth of the known export value in 2001. For that matter no national political leader can afford to ignore policies aimed at addressing the issues concerning mom-and-pop enterprises. Thus, invariably every federal administration has declared policies to improve the economic security of small businesses, provide them help to meet challenges by improving access to capital, ease the tax burden, expand the opportunity of access to new markets, make technology and information work for small businesses and help them in implementing policies that value families. However, development of specific policies addressing issues of small businesses by our lo-

By **ED STEPHENS**

*Ed Stephens, Jr. is an economist and columnist for the Saipan Tribune. "Ed4Saipan@yahoo.com"*



policy—economic, military, whatever—was an utter disaster. Want to understand Reagan's popularity? You have to understand this first. It's a context thing.

And then Ronald Reagan appeared and he turned things around. The smothering blanket was lifted. The sun came out. Things got better. That's what happened. The details don't matter.

Meanwhile, consider that TV is the center of life in the USA, where the average American now watches 5.3 hours per day (yes, per DAY) of television. Reagan wasn't the first TV president, but he was the best. He was telegenic. He was poised. He had an obvious sense of humor. He was dignified, but not stuffy, not cocky, not glib, not pompous. He seemed bigger than the title of President, not the other way around.

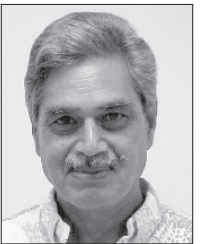
He seemed bigger than life, really, which is why so many people were so shaken a few days ago when they found that he wasn't.

Personally, there were some Reagan policies that I did not mesh with. Not everyone in his administration was on my warm-and-fuzzy list. But, so what? He was still a great among greats. In fact, in contemplating the man's legacy, perhaps the best reflection on him is who his shrill and vocal enemies are. If screeching neurotics, child molesters, and welfare queens go apoplectic at the mention of his name...well....that puts points in Reagan's favor right there.

Ronald Reagan is an American legend, who was legendarily good to the people of the Commonwealth, too.

By **MOHAMMAD ASHRAF, PH.D.**

*Ashraf is an International Resource Economist. He is solely responsible for the views expressed in this column and doesn't represent the views of Saipan Tribune. His email address is ashmdr@hotmail.com*



cal government may yet be in its infancy.

Further, I will mention some specific steps taken under the Clinton administration where the Small Business Administration doubled its loan volume to small businesses in three years. With no drop in loans to other business owners, the number of guaranteed loans to women-owned businesses was quadrupled. The 1993 Economic Plan made 90 percent of small businesses eligible for tax relief, helping them to keep money needed for growth. Also, targeted tax preference for capital gains, reduced record keeping requirements, raised the small business expense limit for equipment by 75 percent and extended the Research and Experimentation Tax Credit, reduced the burden of regulatory enforcement, overhauled export controls, and made it easier for small firms to do business with the federal government during the same time.

Similar policies such as tax write-offs for small businesses recently enacted by the Minimum Wage Increase Act, regulatory relief and reduction in paperwork requirements, easier access to needed capital, provision of health care insurance and retirement savings plans for employers and employees are continuing under the current administration of President Bush.

Why are mom-and-pop or family businesses more appreciated by the community, compared with the bigger chain store businesses? The reasons include the effectiveness of family teams, positive customer perceptions of family ownership, willingness of family members to sacrifice for their enterprise, trust among family members, commitment to integrity and reputation, family support and more. Family businesses enable people to work hard for something more important than either opportunity or ego and that's family reputation.

Among the economic benefits of these businesses, studies show that the externally owned firms tend to purchase products from distant suppliers and channel profits to distant owners in other regions, thus generating smaller local multiplier effects than homegrown businesses. The addition of one new small firm results in an overall

See **EXAMINING** on Page 8



# PNG looks to expand tuna processing

**PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea** (The National/PIR)—Papua New Guinea’s rapidly growing tuna export industry could enjoy a yearly turnover of US\$1 billion (K3 billion) if most of the catch was processed locally, fisheries officials say.

The acting managing director of the National Fisheries Authority (NFA), Sylvester Pokajam, said at a media briefing yesterday that 94 percent of the tuna caught in PNG waters was shipped to Thailand, the Philippines and other countries without coming ashore.

“With more investments here it would be more attracting for fishing companies to land their catch here,” said Mr Norman

Barnabas, NFA’s manager Provincial & Industrial Liaison.

NFA executives explained that the 205 purse seine licenses issued by Papua New Guinea would be renegotiated at the end of this year under a newly established regional regime involving “fishing vessel days.”

“We will have more leverage in these negotiations,” said Barnabas, adding that the government would make extra efforts to encourage onshore investments to further build up the fishing industry.

“The total annual catch is about 330,000 tons a year and we are trying to bring most of this onshore,” said Pokajam. “If we create more spin-offs

here, a turnover of US\$1 billion a year is possible,” he said.

Papua New Guinea only exported 100 tons of tuna in 1990 but this has already grown to 50,000 tons and with two or three processing operations underway the export figure would double, Barnabas said.

Full European Union recognition of the quality of NFA’s audit and certification unit has led to the opening of new markets, including the United Kingdom.

The head of the unit, Ms Aquina Rogers Kango, said since October 2002 Papua New Guinea has been elevated to “list 1” for EU fisheries imports.

The unit certifies the quality of all

processed marine products. Last year it carried out inspections and surveys on more than 30 land-based canned, fresh and frozen fish operations, 150 fishing vessels and 100 outlets for dried and cured marine products.

More than 10,000 people are employed in commercial fishing activities with almost 3,000 people working at the RD Tuna operations in Madang. New fishing ventures are being set up in Wewak, Lae, Kavieng and Manus.

Barnabas said NFA has signed four agreements with Morobe, Madang, Milne Bay and Central provinces and expects to conclude 14 deals with all Maritime Provinces by the end of this year.

“Funds will be set aside to support

fisheries in these provinces,” he said.

A wharf and finger jetty at Daru could be one of the first new NFA projects in the provinces and “it will have a big impact on Daru town,” said Peter Cusack, deputy team leader of the ADB Fisheries Project.

A long-line fishing wharf has been built in Kavieng and another facility in Manus with a long-line wharf and jetty costing over K3 million also being planned at Voco Point in Lae.

Because of land access problems, a K2-million wharf planned for Sander-son Harbor in Alotau may be lost to another province, as had been the case with a similar project that had been planned for Port Moresby.

## Man convicted for ice distribution

The U.S. District Court yesterday convicted a man for illegal drug distribution.

Chief Judge Alex R. Munson convicted Vicente A. Sablan on a count of distribution and possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance after the man pleaded guilty to the charge. Munson scheduled

Sablan’s sentencing on Oct. 12.

U.S. prosecutor Patrick Smith asked the court to revoke Sablan’s liberty and place him in custody after testing positive for illegal drugs Wednesday morning. The judge granted the request.

The charge to which Sablan pleaded guilty to carries a maximum sentence

of 20 years imprisonment, maximum fine of \$1 million and lifetime supervised release.

Smith initially charged Sablan with three counts of the offense, saying that Sablan possessed small quantities of methamphetamine hydrochloride or ice on three occasions. *(John Ravelo)*

### JGO

From Page 1

parlors. Some of them are legally operating but some are just being used as fronts. They [employees] should be certified masseuses,” said the representative.

Other ways, he said, to minimize prostitution or make it less of a nuisance than what it is now is to come up with laws against loitering and peddling. Norita also cited the zoning law as an effective tool to deter prostitution in the Garapan district.

These are on top of the governor’s

anti-prostitution task force and ongoing activities being conducted by the AGO and the Labor Department, he added.

“I would like to commend the governor on that and by implementing the zoning law, police would be able to sweep prostitution out of the Garapan district. There are other ways but it is a combination of a better legislation that would supplement existing activities that would make matters more effective,” said Norita.

Last week, Attorney General Pam Brown had warned that garment workers who were involved in a class suit

and failed to get employment during the six-month window period would be subjected to a crackdown by July 15.

Brown said the crackdown aims to weed out illegal aliens.

Reports have it that some of these workers, having failed to secure new jobs, are now involved in illegal activities, particularly in the Garapan area.

Brown said all preparations are now being done and garment workers who would like to avail of the assistance of the AGO have the opportunity to turn themselves in for voluntary repatriation before July 15.

### IRAQI

From Page 1

In the video broadcast by Al-Jazeera television, the group claimed to have already killed an Iraqi security guard who was accompanying the Filipino, the newscaster said. The statement gave no details of his capture.

Three armed and masked men stood behind the seated hostage, threatening to kill him if the Philippines doesn’t pull out within three days. A banner on the wall behind them identified the captors as a previously unknown group, the Iraqi Islamic Army-Khaled bin al-Waleed Corps.

Thursday, the Philippines government suspended further deployment of

Filipinos to Iraq. Philippines officials did not provide details but said the Cabinet would meet later in the day to discuss the situation.

The statement and video did not name the hostage. The footage shows an identity card that an Al-Jazeera staffer in Qatar later told The Associated Press belonged to the slain Iraqi guard.

The card, issued by Al-Ghadeer Security Service, bore the name Hafidh Amer, identified as a security guard. The footage also showed a weapons authorization card with the same name.

Al-Jazeera’s newscaster said the Filipino is an employee of a Saudi company that works for the U.S. military.

In the video, the hostage wore

a bright orange garment similar to that worn by the American hostage Nick Berg when he was beheaded by Iraqi militants led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

The group’s namesake, Khaled bin al-Waleed, is one of the commanders of the army of Islam’s Prophet Muhammad. Muhammad gave bin al-Waleed the title “Sword of Islam.”

Al-Jazeera spokesman Jihad Ballout said the channel received the videotape Wednesday.

The Philippines has contributed 51 soldiers, police officers and health workers to the multinational force in Iraq.

In addition, about 4,100 Filipinos are working in U.S. military bases in Iraq as cooks, mechanics or in other jobs.

### US LABOR

From Page 1

where and how to obtain application forms, number and types of positions available, number of working hours and rate of pay per hour.

Aging Office director Joseph Palacios said the grant would help seniors earn extra cash.

“We apply for this grant annually because it really helps our elderly stay active and earn money at the same time. We appreciate the Department of Labor funding this program,” Palacios said.

Palacios said the grant would provide 46 part-time jobs, mostly in the Public School System. Saipan has authorization for 24 positions, while Rota and Tinian each have 11. He advised interested seniors to contact the Office of Personnel Management to find out how to apply for these positions.

The program, Senior Community Service Employment Program, grew out of the older workers component of Operation Mainstream, a pilot project established in 1965 under Title II of the Economic Opportunity Act.

Operation Mainstream provided job opportunities for chronically un-

employed, poor adults. In 1973, the older worker component of Operation Mainstream was converted from a pilot project to an ongoing program, which is the SCSEP under the Older Americans Comprehensive Service Amendments. The 1978 Comprehensive Older Americans Act Amendments re-designated the SCSEP as Title V of the Older Americans Act.

The focus of the SCSEP is to foster and promote useful part-time opportunities in community service activities for persons with low incomes who are 55 years old or older, who have poor employment prospects and have the greatest economic need.

Community service means social, health, welfare, and educational services (particularly literacy tutoring), legal and other counseling services and assistance, including tax counseling and assistance and financial counseling, and library, recreational, and other similar services; conservation, maintenance, or restoration of natural resources; community betterment or beautification; antipollution and environmental quality efforts; weatherization activities; economic development; and such other services essential and necessary to the community as the Labor Secretary may prescribe.

### JOLLIBEE

From Page 1

True Value Hardware and Servistar Motorsports—all in Garapan—the Do-It-Best Hardware in Chalan Piao, and a construction firm.

The Jollibee outlet in Garapan continues normal operations, Yumul said. When pressed if the business was doing well, he simply reiterated that operations remain normal.

Jollibee Foods Corp. is the leading fastfood chain in the Philippines. YCO

acquired a franchise from Jollibee over five years ago for \$65,000, excluding the minimum required capital investment of \$250,000. Its franchise allows it to operate three Jollibee outlets on Saipan.

YCO first put up the Garapan restaurant for \$700,000. Its capital investment for the Chalan Kanoa branch totaled some \$300,000 four years ago, Yumul said.

Yumul said the rest of YCO’s holding companies have been performing positively. The YCO companies have over 80 employees.









# Red flag raised on 9 beach sites

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on seven beach sites on Saipan and two on Tinian, saying that samples collected from these sites were found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria.

On Saipan, the beach sites declared off limits are Wing Beach, South Puerto Rico Dump, Hyatt Hotel Beach, Dai-Ichi Hotel Beach, Drainage #1, Garapan Fishing Dock, and Sugar Dock. On Tinian, the off-limits apply to Unai Dangkolo and Tachogna Beach.

In a statement, DEQ said that concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria—fecal coliform and enterococci—found on samples collected from these sites exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

“In order to adequately address public health concerns, DEQ has given [these] locations a red flag and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified,” the DEQ statement said.

The agency was quick to add, though, that studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria

from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 38 locations on Saipan’s coast and from 10 locations on Tinian Island.

Meantime, the agency also analyzed water samples collected from Managaha’s recreational beaches and dock and none of the samples collected contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions.

Brando received many hotel project offers and allegedly he even had a good time tearing some of them up. According to Alex du Prel, however, the actor had not excluded the possible building of a hotel in Tetiaroa. But he wanted the building architecture to be integrated with the atoll environment and to respect it.

In case the heirs want to pass on the atoll to Polynesia State, in order to protect it from massive tourist invasion and respect the actor’s will, the 40 million Fcfp (about 335.000 euros) bill owned by Tetiaroa Village to Air Moorea airline, has to be paid.

Moreover, Tetiaroa could be in the center of American tax department investigation, according to CNN report Marlon Brando owed them US\$28 million (about Fcfp 2.8 billion) in debts.

## NMC youth program celebrates last day

The Northern Marianas College’s Future Leaders of the CNMI Project Life group recently gathered at the college’s business building to celebrate their last day with friends and coordinators of the program.

Rosario Hocog, David Attao, Polly Omechelang, Dawn Kenney, and Bonnie Royal coordinated the Camp Life and Project Life program for the kids. Instructors included various people from the community.

Project Life involved the kids attending workshops dealing with leadership and stress management. Project Life is made up of 14 kids aged 12-14. The Camp Life Program, on the other hand, was intended for kids to gain experience in team building, entrepreneurship, and creative exploration. Camp Life consists of 10 kids with ages 6-11.

Both camps were originally set to conclude last week but were extended because of two days lost due to Typhoon Tinging.

As a result of the children’s positive feedback, and involvement in a variety of activities, the coordinators added new programs for the kids.

Johnna Lubuguin, who participated in Project Life, was recognized as Outstanding Volunteer. The Outstanding Leadership award was presented to Jesse A. Deleon Guerrero.

“I would like to thank all of you for the wonderful experience; it was fun,” said Deleon Guerrero.

According to Community Development Institute program coordinator Dawn Chrystal Kenney, the Camp Life children were expected to receive their certificates. Unfortunately, seven children under the program for Camp Life are currently off island. *(Cassie DLG Fejeran/Shan Seman)*

## Solomons governor general sworn in

**HONIARA, Solomon Islands** (SIBC, PIR)—Nathaniel Waena was sworn in today as Governor General of the Solomon Islands during celebrations to mark the country’s 26th anniversary of independence.

Waena, from Ulawa Island in Makira-Ulawa Province, was the only Member of Parliament to retain his office since its formation in the mid-1980’s.

He had served as a senior government officer and later government Minister or supporter until his election as Head of State of Solomon Islands last month.

Waena was the Minister for Peace and National Reconciliation until his election as Governor General.

The new Governor General, Waena took his oath of allegiance, administered by the Chief Justice and Attorney General, followed by a traditional ceremony performed by two chiefs from Ulawa in the presence of the Makira-Ulawa Premier, Stephen Piringisau.

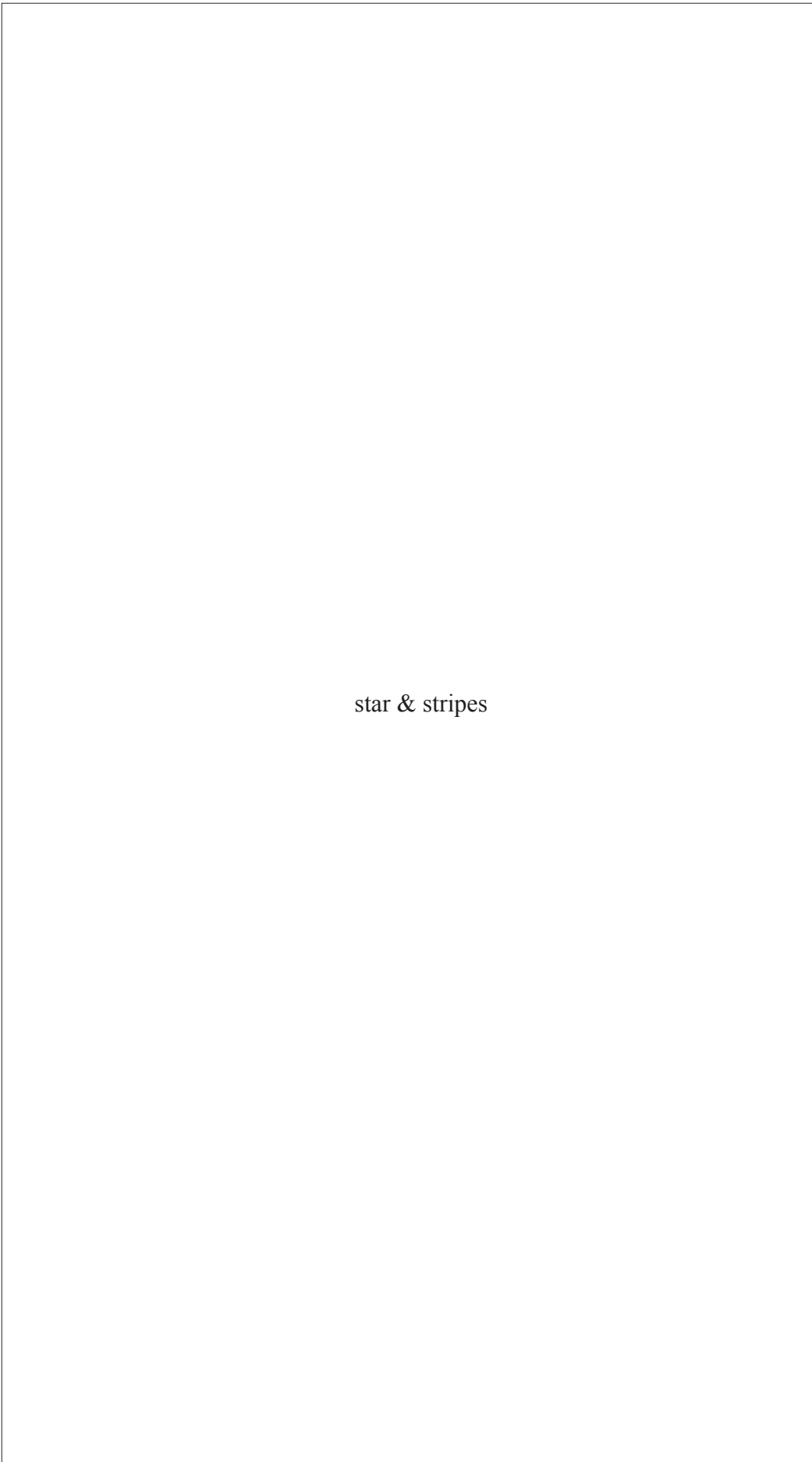
One end of a traditional Ulawa shell money was hung above Waena’s head, while the other end was held by one of the chiefs who addressed the new Governor General in the Ulawan dialect.

DIAL RENT





dial rent



star & stripes



verizon  
cmyk









iconnect  
cmyk

mva  
cmyk

## Lawmakers briefed on terror attack threat

WASHINGTON (AP)—Top FBI, CIA and Homeland Security Department officials briefed House members Wednesday about a steady stream of intelligence indicating al-Qaida may seek to mount an attack aimed at disrupting U.S. elections.

All House members were invited to the 90-minute session at the Rayburn House Office Building with FBI Director Robert Mueller; Asa Hutchinson, Homeland Security undersecretary for border and transportation security; and John Brennan, a CIA official who heads the joint CIA-FBI Terrorism Threat Integration Center.

Rep. Christopher Cox, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said he could not discuss specifics of the presentation. But he said there are broad concerns that al-Qaida wants to strike inside the

United States this summer or fall and hopes to influence the U.S. election, as terrorists did in Spain with the deadly Madrid train bombings in March.

"There is a steady drumbeat of reporting and the threat has not abated," Cox, R-Calif., told reporters.

Still, Hutchinson said there are no plans to raise the nation's terror alert level. It's at yellow, or elevated, the middle of five levels.

The briefings were requested by congressional leaders, some of whom attended a similar event Tuesday at the White House at the invitation of Andrew Card, President Bush's chief of staff. The Senate was scheduled to hold a similar session Thursday with the FBI and CIA officials as well as Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge.

No new intelligence is being presented at the briefings, said two federal law enforcement officials who spoke on condition of anonymity. There is no credible information pointing to a specific time, place or method for a terrorist attack, they said.

Bush administration officials have said al-Qaida was emboldened by its successful March 11 attack in Spain, which killed 190 people and contributed to the election defeat of the ruling party. Spain subsequently announced it would withdraw troops from Iraq, seen by many analysts as a boon to terrorist goals.

With the Republican and Democratic presidential nominating conventions approaching, many lawmakers asked for briefings about the terror attack threat and the level of security precautions being taken.



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., hands the microphone to his running mate Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., during a photo opportunity at Kerry's Pittsburgh residence, Wednesday, July 7, 2004. Next to Kerry is his wife Teresa Heinz Kerry.

## Tough talk, banter kick off 4-man campaign

CLEVELAND (AP)—President Bush on Wednesday curtly dismissed freshman Sen. John Edwards' credentials to be vice president while Democratic challenger John Kerry and his running mate rallied voters in battleground states. "Dick Cheney can be president," Bush declared, and Kerry suggested that was part of the problem.

A day after he welcomed Edwards to the presidential campaign, Bush visited Edwards' hometown of Raleigh, N.C., to criticize the North Carolina senator's role in holding up judicial appointments. The president said he was unconcerned about the potential of Edwards to help carry states in the South, a GOP bastion.

"When they go to the polls to vote for president, they'll understand the senator from Massachusetts doesn't share their values," Bush said. "I'm going to carry the South because the people understand that they share—we share values."

During a trip scheduled before Kerry picked Edwards, Bush said Edwards and other Senate Democrats obstruct the work of the federal judiciary by refusing to fill judgeships. He said he told three nominees in a private meeting, "You're being hung out by a handful of United States senators."

## Ex-GOP senator suggests that Bush dump Cheney

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—President Bush should consider dumping Vice President Dick Cheney from the Republican ticket this year, an influential former GOP senator said Wednesday.

Alfonse D'Amato said Bush should consider putting Secretary of State Colin Powell or Sen. John McCain



D'Amato

of Arizona on the GOP ticket.

There was no immediate comment from the Bush-Cheney campaign.

Bush has long maintained he wants Cheney to be his running mate.

The D'Amato advice came one day after Bush's Democratic challenger, Sen. John Kerry, announced he had selected Sen. John Edwards to be his running mate.

"Let me note that Vice President Cheney is a decent, honor-

able, and patriotic American, a man of great intellect, who has served the president and the nation with dedication," D'Amato said in a statement released by his office. "But we should make no mistake, we are a nation at war with a vicious terrorist foe, and in war hard decisions must be made."

"As an observer of politics, I believe the president can guarantee his essential re-election by looking to several other notable individuals who would add a great dimension to his ticket as a running mate," the New York Republican added.

Placing Powell "first and foremost" on his wish list to replace Cheney, D'Amato said the retired general "would help galvanize the nation and offer a truly historic opportunity for American unity and pride."

A reporter noted that Edwards was being described as "charming, engaging, a nimble campaigner, a populist and even sexy"

and asked, "How does he stack up against Dick Cheney?" Bush didn't hesitate: "Dick Cheney can be president. Next?"

## Peterson jurors shown murder scene photos

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. (AP)—Jurors at Scott Peterson's murder trial cringed Wednesday as prosecutors displayed photos of bone and tissue from the decomposed bodies of Peterson's wife and her fetus.

The trial, in its sixth week, has just begun to focus on graphic images of Laci Peterson, who was pregnant with the couple's son. Previous testimony concentrated on Peterson's allegedly incriminating behavior after his wife vanished.

"The most powerful way to bring the jury back to what the case is about are the images of a

dead fetus and the mother," said former San Francisco prosecutor Jim Hammer. "The whole tone of the trial has changed."

Last week, prosecutors repeatedly questioned witnesses about Peterson's affair with a Fresno massage therapist—his motive, they say, for the murder of his pregnant wife.

Defense attorneys never denied Peterson had an affair, but insist that doesn't make him a killer.

On Wednesday, prosecutors spent the morning guiding two sheriff's deputies through graphic testimony about the poor condition of the remains and

where they were discovered.

The testimony drove Laci Peterson's mother and stepfather from the courtroom.

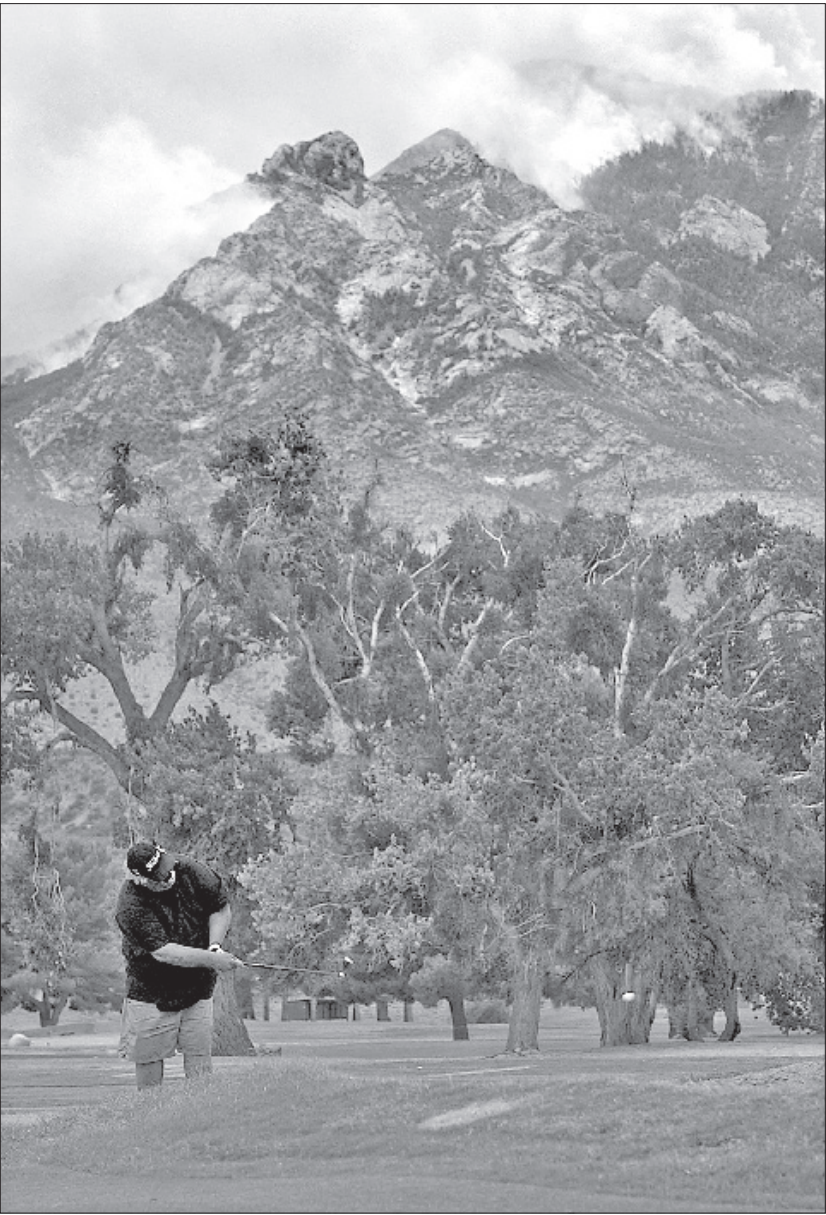
Meanwhile, defense attorneys questioned the evidence-collection process in the areas around where the two sets of remains were found.

"Fair to say that there was nobody going around collecting evidence?" defense attorney Mark Geragos asked Deputy Chris Martinez of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department, who collected the fetus from the marshy shoreline along the bay in April 2003.

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**FLAMING FAIRWAYS**  
Mike Cole of Safford, Ariz., chips his shot onto the 18th green at the Safford Golf Course as smoke from a wildfire billows atop Mount Graham, Wednesday, July 7, 2004, in Safford, Ariz.

# Marine’s family denies reports of release

**WEST JORDAN, Utah** (AP)—The brother of a Marine who was reported captured in Iraq denied reports Wednesday that he had been released and contacted family members, but a U.S. official said there was reason to believe the corporal was in his native Lebanon.

“I hope we hear from him, but so far, nothing,” his brother, Mohamad Hassoun, told The Associated Press.

CNN reported Wednesday that Wassef Ali Hassoun, 24, had been in touch with his family in Utah and Lebanon, telling them he had contacted the U.S. Embassy in Beirut and asked to be picked up at an

undisclosed location in Lebanon.

When asked about the supposed call from Hassoun, his brother in Lebanon, Sami Hassoun, said: “We have nothing to say.”

A U.S. official, speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity, refused to confirm the CNN report, saying only that there was reason to believe Hassoun was in Lebanon. The official did not elaborate.

Another senior U.S. official said the embassy in Beirut has received a report that Hassoun is safe in Lebanon, but officials have not been able to confirm it.

“We haven’t been able to determine his whereabouts or get in

touch with him,” the official said.

Asked about an NBC report that the Navy is investigating whether Hassoun’s disappearance may be part of a kidnapping hoax, a Marine spokesman said the Navy investigation remains open.

“I don’t think they’re ruling that out. It would be fair to say they’re not ruling that out,” said Maj. Nat Fahy.

The Marines said Hassoun disappeared June 20 from Iraq on “unauthorized leave,” but changed his status to “captured” after he turned up June 27 on television blindfolded with a sword hanging over his head.

# Kan. plant reopens after deadly shooting

**KANSAS CITY, Kan.** (AP)—Employees of a meatpacking plant where a co-worker went on a shooting rampage returned to work Tuesday, four days after the gunman killed five people and injured two others before killing himself.

The ConAgra Foods Inc. plant had been closed since Friday, when 21-year-old Elijah Brown—described by police as a disgruntled employee—opened

fire during the plant’s 5 p.m. break.

A steady stream of employees arrived at the plant before the 7 a.m. start of the first shift, all showing ID to security. Reporters were not allowed into the plant.

Trucks making deliveries to the plant were turned away by security guards until 8 a.m., but the reason was unclear.

ConAgra spokeswoman Julie DeYoung said the shifts would begin

with an employee meeting and short memorial service.

DeYoung said workers who don’t feel like coming back to work so soon after the shootings won’t be required to do so, and can use sick leave or personal days so they don’t miss any pay.

“We’re not going to force anyone to return to work if they feel they’re not ready,” she said Monday.

# FDA to announce new rules on cattle feed

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The Food and Drug Administration plans to announce Friday new restrictions to keep mad cow disease from being spread through cattle feed, livestock industry sources said Wednesday.

The feed restrictions are aimed at closing loopholes in a rule issued in 1997. That rule bans the use of cattle protein in feed for other cattle. A misshapen protein is blamed for mad

cow, a fatal, brain-wasting disease also known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE.

In January, the FDA announced additional restrictions on feed ingredients, including a ban on the use of cattle blood. The American Feed Industry Association said Wednesday that the FDA will announce more restrictions Friday.

The trade group said the FDA’s new

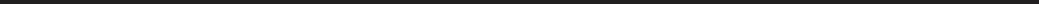
proposals would be in line with recommendations made in February by an international panel created by the Agriculture Department. The association’s statement did not specify the possible additional restrictions, and the international panel had a range of recommendations.

The United States has had one case of mad cow, diagnosed in a Washington state Holstein in December.

DPW023

DPW024







# China: Wild birds spark bird flu outbreak

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN  
AP WRITER

**SHANGHAI, China** (AP)—China said Wednesday that wild birds may have sparked a new outbreak of avian flu on a lakeside farm, while Thailand confirmed fresh outbreaks in two central provinces.

The cases in Anhui province, China's first reported outbreak in

nearly four months, involve the same severe bird flu strain that earlier this year ravaged Asia's poultry industry and jumped to people in Vietnam and Thailand, killing 24. About 100 million chickens across the region were slaughtered to halt its spread.

China's Agriculture Ministry said the farm in Anhui was quarantined following confirmation of the flu on Tuesday. All poultry

within two miles of the affected farm have been slaughtered and birds within three miles vaccinated, the reports said.

"The local government has made necessary measures of slaughter or quarantine to prevent a spread and sent samples to the authorities. It has also isolated the area," the official Xinhua News Agency said. It said Agriculture Ministry authorities

were first informed of bird deaths on the farm on Saturday. Meanwhile, Thailand declared two "red zones" around affected farms where authorities are culling thousands of chickens. Lab tests confirmed that the new outbreaks in Ayuthaya and Prathumthani provinces, the government said.

Vietnam also reported several small outbreaks last week.

Xinhua said the Anhui outbreak was discovered on a lakeside farm near the city of Chaohu. Because chicks were bought from a local market where no flu has been reported, officials suspect waterfowl or migrating birds visiting the lake might have been the carriers, it said.

Photos on Xinhua's Web site showed officials setting up a tent as part of a disinfecting station for vehicles passing in and out of the area.

Anhui has ordered all its poultry farms to disinfect equipment, Xinhua said. Farmers would be compensated for the loss of birds and cost of vaccines, it said.

In southeastern Guangdong province bordering Hong Kong, farms were urged to prevent contact with wild birds and immunize all poultry at least twice.

Hong Kong and China's capital Beijing have suspended poultry imports from Anhui.

An official with the Agriculture Ministry's livestock and poultry division said the outbreak had been contained, but gave no details.

"All necessary measures have been taken," said the man, who wouldn't give his name.

The Paris-based World Organization for Animal Health said 8,160 birds had been killed in Anhui, 1,520 by flu and the rest in the following slaughter.

The group, better known by its French initials, OIE, said it was "very possible that the disease was transmitted by migratory birds and wild waterfowl," citing information provided by the Chinese Agriculture Ministry on Tuesday.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's top official in Beijing said he expected to meet with Agriculture Ministry officials soon to obtain more information and decide whether to send a team to investigate.

The spokesman, Robert Brown, said the wild bird theory appeared to be a "reasonable explanation."

## Alleged Army deserter to leave N. Korea

**TOKYO** (AP)—For nearly 40 years, Charles Robert Jenkins has been a wanted man, unable to leave his adopted home of North Korea for fear of being court-martialed for allegedly deserting his Army unit. On Friday, that will change—at least temporarily.

After months of intense negotiations, a jet chartered by the Japanese government is to whisk 64-year-old Jenkins out of the North Korean capital of Pyongyang. The plane will fly Jenkins and his two daughters to Jakarta, Indonesia—and again out of the reach of American authorities—for a reunion watched by all of Japan.

Japan's interest isn't in Jenkins but in his wife, who was kidnapped by North Korean spies in 1978 after shopping with her mother on the tiny islet of Sado off Japan's main island.

Her mother has never been accounted for. But Hitomi Soga was allowed to return to Japan with several other abductees after North Korean leader Kim Jong Il ended decades of denial and confessed during a summit in 2002 with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi that under his late father's leadership his country had carried out at least a dozen kidnappings.

Soga's husband, formerly of Rich Square, N.C., complicates her case.

Koizumi hoped to win the return of Jenkins and his daughters—Belinda, 20, and Mika, 18—when he visited North Korea on May 22. But he failed in an hour-long meeting to persuade Jenkins to come to Japan, where he would



Charles Robert Jenkins, the husband of Hitomi Soga, one of five Japanese citizens abducted to North Korea and later freed in Japan, talks to Kyodo News, beside his family photos, in this Nov. 29, 2002 file photo at a Pyongyang's hospital when he was hospitalized for extreme fatigue.

almost certainly be turned over to American custody.

Responding to an outpouring of sympathy for Soga, the Japanese government negotiated a reunion in Indonesia, which has no extradition treaty with Washington. Soga flies to Jakarta Thursday, and her husband the next day.

"I am happy for her," Koizumi said Tuesday. "I hope North Korea continues to demonstrate such sincerity in the future."

Koizumi's motives, however, have been questioned. Critics accuse him of speeding up the reunion to boost his plunging approval ratings before week-end parliamentary elections.

## Celebration planned for 'China's Magellan'

**BEIJING** (AP)—An explorer sometimes described as "China's Magellan" for his daring voyages to India and Africa will be celebrated next year on the 600th anniversary of his setting sail, China announced Wednesday.

The seven voyages of Admiral Zheng He's fleet marked a high point in Chinese naval power. But imperial rulers soon lost interest in the outside world and canceled further exploration more than a half-century before Columbus reached the New World.

Planned events for the July 2005 anniversary include a maritime exposition in Shanghai, television programs and events for children,

said Xu Zuyuan, a deputy minister of communications.

Between 1405 and 1433, Zheng He—whose name is also spelled Cheng Ho—led armadas with scores of junks and thousands of sailors on voyages to promote trade and recognition of the new Ming dynasty, which had taken power in 1368.

"As far as scale and duration were concerned, Zheng He's voyages were the largest in the world," Xu said at a news conference.

The Chinese visited Southeast Asia and India, reaching the Persian Gulf and Mombasa in what is now Kenya. They lavished gifts of porcelain and silks on local rul-

ers and returned with giraffes.

British author Gavin Menzies claimed in a bestselling book last year that Zheng He's fleets sailed on past Africa, reaching the Americas before Europeans. But other historians and even China's Zheng He Association, which celebrates the admiral's expeditions, reject the claims in Menzies' "1421: The Year China Discovered America."

The last fleet sailed home 59 years before Christopher Columbus's 1492 voyage for Spain. In 1519-22, the ships of Portugal's Ferdinand Magellan completed the first circumnavigation of the globe.

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## World

# Militant group claims Fallujah killings

By JAMIE TARABAY  
AP WRITER

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** (AP)—A militant group calling itself the Islamic Army in Iraq claimed responsibility for the March 31 killings of four American contractors whose bodies were mutilated in the restive city of Fallujah.

The claim was made in a CD-ROM obtained by Time magazine that also showed footage purported to be of the attack, identification papers of the victims and papers with the logo of their company, Blackwater Security Consulting.

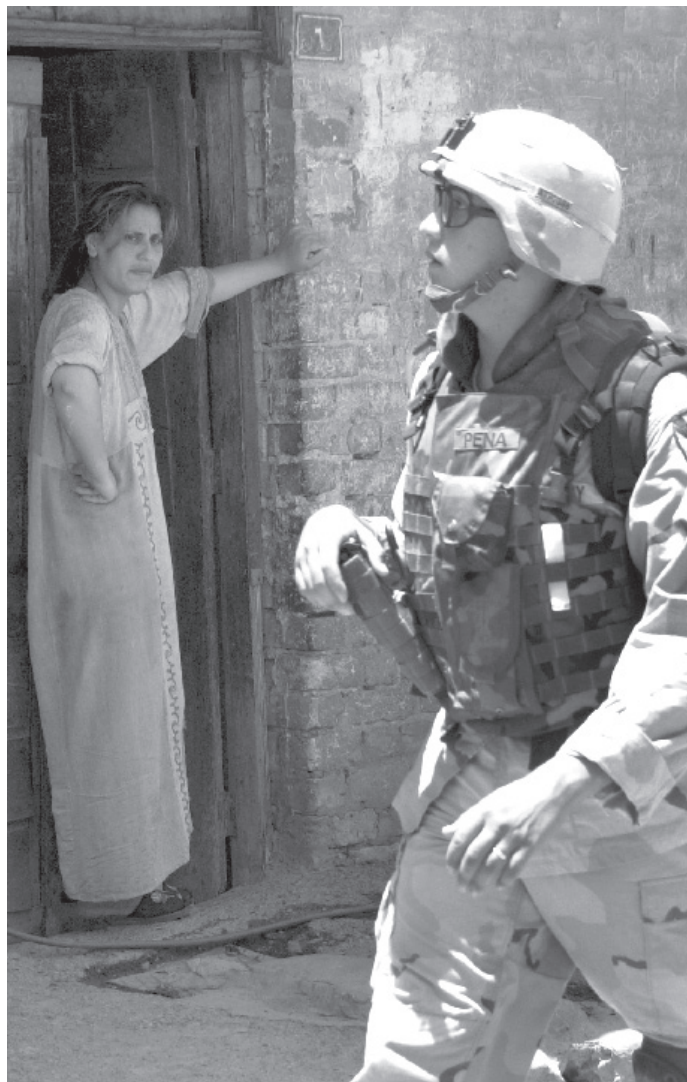
The slaying and mutilations of the four Blackwater employees—two of their burned bodies were hung from a bridge by an Iraqi mob—was one of the factors that prompted a bloody three-week siege of Fallujah by U.S. Marines.

The assault ended with the Marines withdrawing and handing the city over to an Iraqi force, but Fallujah remains a stronghold of guerrillas and Islamic militants.

There has been no prior claim of responsibility for the killings.

The CD-ROM, obtained Wednesday from Time, features a series of explosions and attacks the group says it orchestrated, and one masked man gives an account of the March 31 ambush.

“One of our operatives in the intelligence department of the Islamic Army told our leaders that members of the CIA would be passing through Fallujah on their way to the base at (the



A woman watches as an American soldier passes by following heavy fighting between Iraqi security forces and insurgents in central Baghdad, Iraq Wednesday, July 7, 2004.

nearby town of) Habbaniyah for an important meeting,” said the masked man, whose voice was distorted in the recording.

Militia leaders decided to target the two cars at the city’s main traffic junction, the man said.

Militants opened fire on the second sport utility vehicle first, the man said, prompting the driver of the leading car to charge forward and spin around in an effort to flee. The militants gave chase in their own car, fir-

## *Iraq unveils new laws to fight insurgency*

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** (AP)—Iraq unveiled emergency laws Wednesday to fight the enduring insurgency, even as masked gunmen battled Iraqi and American forces in Baghdad. The measures give the government broad powers—including the right to impose limited martial law—but some Iraqis questioned whether they would restore order.

The laws also allow Prime Minister Iyad Allawi to set curfews, send security forces on searches and freeze suspects’ assets and monitor their communications. He can also assign military leaders to run restive areas.

Government officials insist built-in checks will protect Iraqis’ rights and prevent the government from backsliding into dictatorship.

That was not much of a concern for some Baghdad residents. “Borrowing Saddam Hussein’s big stick for a short period of time is fine if it’s for the interest of the people,” said pharmacist Salaheddin Hadi.

Allawi, a secular Shiite with close CIA links, can only invoke his new powers with the unanimous approval of the Presidential Council made up

of the president, who is a Sunni Arab, and two vice presidents, a Kurd and a Shiite.

The laws are the first major step by Allawi’s government to make good on its promise to end the violence that has killed hundreds of Iraqis over the past 15 months.

“The law ... is really designed to protect lives in Iraq, whether these lives are Iraqis or friends of Iraq,” Allawi said. “We will use the law ... whenever it is necessary to defeat our enemies.”

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld backed the new laws. “In terms of if they will be more effective, I would think so,” he said, but he would not say if U.S. troops would help enforce the security laws.

Justice Minister Malik Dohan al-Hassan announced the measures, saying, “Present conditions in Iraq have reached a stage that is impossible to tolerate.”

Less than a mile away, a daylight gunbattle between Iraqi security forces and insurgents raged for hours in the streets of central Baghdad. Officials said four people were killed and 20 wounded.

U.S. armored personnel car-

riers moved to the scene of the fighting on Haifa Street to help the Iraqi forces. Two Apache helicopters hovered overhead.

Also Wednesday, four explosions shook another neighborhood near the headquarters of Allawi’s political party, wounding six people, the Interior Ministry reported. The neighborhood hit by the explosions is also home to one of Allawi’s residences. He was not there at the time.

In the latest in a rash of kidnappings, Al-Jazeera television aired video showing armed men holding a Filipino hostage whom they threatened to kill unless the Philippines withdraws its troops from Iraq within 72 hours. Other militants are holding an Egyptian truck driver.

With the violence continuing, some Iraqis welcomed the emergency measures, saying they were needed to improve security.

“This law must be strictly enforced,” said Adel Issa, owner of a clothes shop in the Baghdad’s upscale Mansour district.

Senior Kurdish politician Mahmoud Othman said emergency powers by themselves would not solve security woes.

ing on the contractors and killing them, he said.

The militants displayed some of the contractors’ identification papers, including printed e-mails showing the logo of Moyock, N.C.-based Blackwater.

Footage on the CD-ROM shows the interior of one of the vehicles with the bodies of two men inside with automatic rifles slung across their chests.

One man, his gray hair matted with blood, lies slumped forward,

bullet holes scattered through the black and white crisscross design of his sweater. The man in the passenger seat leans back with his head against the head rest, a bullet hole tearing away most of his right cheek.

## UN didn’t OK uranium transfer to US

**UNITED NATIONS** (AP)—The United States didn’t have authorization from the U.N. nuclear watchdog when it secretly shipped from Iraq uranium and highly radioactive material that could be used in so-called “dirty bombs,” U.N. officials said Wednesday.

The nearly 2 tons of low-enriched uranium and approximately 1,000 highly radioactive items transferred from Iraq to the United States last month had been placed under seal by the International Atomic Energy Agency at the sprawling Tuwaitha nuclear complex, 12 miles south of Baghdad, the officials said.

“The American authorities just informed us of their intention to remove the materials, but they never sought authorization from us,” said Gustavo Zlauvinen, head of the IAEA’s New York office.

U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham disclosed the secret airlift from Iraq on Tuesday as “a major achievement” in an attempt to “keep potentially

dangerous nuclear material out of the hands of terrorists.” The material was taken to an undisclosed U.S. Energy Department laboratory for further analysis.

The airlift ended on June 23, five days before the United States transferred sovereignty to Iraq’s new interim government.

IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei said in a letter to the Security Council circulated Wednesday that Washington informed the agency on June 19 that “due to security concerns” it intended to transfer some nuclear material stored at Tuwaitha to the United States.

The agency took note of the U.S. intention to remove the nuclear material “from agency verification,” he said.

According to the letter, the United States informed the IAEA on June 30 that approximately 1.8 tons of uranium, enriched to a level of 2.6 percent, another 6.6 pounds of low-enriched uranium, and approximately 1,000 highly radioactive sources had been transferred on June 23.



# Yemen court charges 6 in USS Cole bombing

**SAN'A, Yemen (AP)**—A security court charged six alleged al-Qaida members Wednesday with plotting the attack on the USS Cole, opening the first trial in the suicide bombing that killed 17 American sailors. Among the defendants is reputed mastermind Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri.

Police and soldiers cordoned off the security court in San'a, and marksmen watched from rooftops, as five of the defendants were brought in to hear the judge read their indictment. Al-Nashiri, the sixth defendant, is in U.S. custody.

The attack occurred in October 2000 when two suicide bombers brought a small boat alongside the destroyer as it refueled in Aden harbor. The bombers detonated explosives stashed on the boat, killing themselves and 17 sailors, and blasting a huge hole in the ship's hull.

The United States announced al-Nashiri's arrest in 2002. He was detained in the United Arab Emirates and transferred to American custody. U.S. officials believe the Saudi-born al-Nashiri is a close associate of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

In addition to the Cole attack, he is suspected of helping direct the deadly 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

A diplomat at the U.S. Embassy in San'a refused to comment on the trial or disclose al-Nashiri's whereabouts. Nor would he say whether the accused would be handed over to the Yemeni authorities. U.S. diplomats attended the hearing.

The United States reportedly pressed Yemen to delay the trial until all facets of the case had been thoroughly investigated. Journalists in San'a often heard the trial was about to begin, and then found it had been postponed.

Judge Najib al-Qaderi said the court would publish a statement in local newspapers summoning al-Nashiri to appear. Yemeni officials have said they have asked the United States to hand him over.

The five defendants, all Yemenis, refused to plead and asked the judge to grant them access to lawyers.

Al-Qaderi, who approved their request, said they were charged with belonging to the al-Qaida terror network, forming an armed gang with the purpose of carrying out crimes against the state, resisting the authorities and forging documents.

The judge said the attack was planned over three years. He named the two suicide bombers for the first time, Ibrahim al-Thawr and Abdullah al-Misawa, both Yemenis. He said some members of the cell had met in Afghanistan, which was an al-Qaida stronghold before the U.S.-led invasion of that country after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

If convicted, the defendants could be sentenced to up to 15 years in prison, or to death—though judicial officials said death sentences were unlikely because the defendants were not the actual bombers.

The five accused in court were Jamal al-Badawi, Maamoun



Yemeni fishermen pass by the damaged USS Cole in Aden port in this file photo dated Oct. 28 2000, after they were checked by Yemeni police before passing into the Cole's vicinity.

Msouh, Fahd al-Qasa, Ali Mohamed Saleh and Murad al-Sirouri.

Al-Badawi appeared in court with his leg in a cast and was using a crutch. He was injured in a clash with the authorities in March after he escaped from prison with nine other Cole suspects last year.

His lawyer, Mohammed Naji Allaw, told The Associated Press that the state had violated the rights of the accused.

"All the procedures taken against them were illegal," Allaw said, adding Yemeni law provides for detention without charge for up to 45 days.

"My clients were held for almost four years and I was not allowed to attend any of the interrogations—in violation of the law," he said.

## 3 soldiers charged in Iraqi's drowning

**DENVER (AP)**—Three U.S. soldiers have been charged with manslaughter in the drowning of an Iraqi detainee who was forced to jump off a bridge near Baghdad in January, the military said Friday.

A fourth soldier, who like the three others are from Fort Carson, faces charges for allegedly ordering a second Iraqi to jump. That man survived.

The Army said the drowning happened in the Tigris River in the city of Samarra. Both Iraqis were civilians who had been detained for a curfew violation, Army spokesman Lt. Col. Jonathan Withington said.

The four soldiers were on patrol at the time, but no other details of the incident were available, Withington said. All four have since returned to Fort Carson.

Sgt. 1st Class Tracy E. Perkins and 1st Lt. Jack M. Saville are charged with manslaughter, assault, conspiracy and obstruction of justice, according to officials with the 4th Infantry based at Fort Hood, Texas. Sgt. Reggie Martinez is charged with manslaughter and Spc.

Terry Bowman is charged with assault. All are charged with making false statements.

At least 19 prisoner deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan have been investigated as homicides by the military; eight were determined to be justified killings of an escaping or dangerously violent prisoner.

Saville and Perkins were formally charged on June 7, while the other two were formally charged June 28. They face a hearing at Fort Carson to determine whether they should be court-martialed. The procedure, called an Article 32 hearing, has not been scheduled.

All four remain on active duty at Fort Carson, but have been reassigned, Withington said. Saville, who was a platoon lieutenant, and Perkins, a platoon sergeant, are no longer in command of a platoon, Withington said. He did not know what their current duties are.

The soldiers are assigned to Fort Carson's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, which is part of the 4th Infantry. All 4,500 soldiers in the brigade returned by April after about a year in Iraq.

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# Science & Technology

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URBAN OUTLET  
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## Life &amp; Style

## The new weird order

By LYNELL GEORGE  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

David Sedaris isn't trying to change the world. He's just fond of tweaking the universe now and again—just because he can.

So late last month, the author was up to his familiar bent mischief. At the close of his reading to promote his latest book, the bestselling "Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim," he informed the sold-out crowd of 1,800 at the University of California, Los Angeles that he would offer priority signing—for smokers.

A pack of cigarettes would usher the bearer to the front of the line, which, if it was anything like it's been around the country, could be at least a four- to five-hour wait. "You nonsmokers are going to live longer than us anyway," he explained.

A wave of dubious chuckles rose from the crowd. The laughter gathered steam as Sedaris, installed behind an imposing podium, continued to lay down the rules: "And for those of you smokers who will think about giving your packs to the nonsmokers, I think you should ask yourself: 'Would he let me smoke in his home?' The answer is no."

Several hours worth of a line snaked from the lobby out onto the brick courtyard. Smokers, proudly brandishing their American Spirits and Marlboro Lights, pressed to the front of the queue. Bewildered ushers stood at the doorways, double-checking with publicity staff to make sure they had grasped the rule as a rule. Not a joke.

With Sedaris you can't always be certain.

Later, Sedaris says, "One guy really got upset! He said it was state property. 'How could they do that?!' he mimics, stepping down his twangy wisp of a voice half an octave. "The UCLA people told him that it was my decision. He was still pretty hot. I thought, 'well, if I



David Sedaris talks with a fan at a book signing in Los Angeles for "Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim," his latest book.

had given priority signing to SUV drivers, I don't think he would have found any problem with that. He would have happily taken his place. First in line."

Sedaris knows what it's like to be on the other side of the velvet rope. His outsider-ness has heightened his awareness.

He's been the marginalized Everyguy, his worries, tics, obsessions and neurosis raging all over the page. He's survived the nightmare neighbors, the carousel of weird, dead-end jobs, the father who kicked him out because he's gay, the random, unhinged stranger. But unlike the rest of us, he has the withering riposte at the ready. "He's so smart, so amazingly twisted," said Daavid Hawkins, who was milling among the Sedaris-ites hoping for a glimpse. "That makes him a kindred spirit."

It was the dizzily off-kilter piece "SantaLand Diaries" that introduced

Sedaris to the world. Broadcast on National Public Radio during the 1992 holiday season, the dry, wickedly mordant essay recounted his hyper-surreal experiences as a Macy's elf. With his clipped, prim voice, his slightly haughty delivery and his ability to journey to the center of the absurd and stare it down, Sedaris became an NPR regular—and later a cult icon. Another collection, "Naked," followed in 1997, but it would be 2000's "Me Talk Pretty One Day" that cemented his reputation. The collection made him not just a book celebrity but a genuine literary star.

"Dress Your Family," his latest collection, is already No. 1 on the New York Times bestseller list. Thousands crowd in for readings nationwide; fans nod along with favorite passages as if hearing famous guitar riffs. All of it has made him the rarest of writers, one who

can appear on David Letterman to try out a piece or sell out Carnegie Hall but not lose his hip cachet.

All things considered, his offstage life appears to have taken a posh turn as well. An apartment in Paris, a flat in London, a house in Normandy, all of which he shares with his boyfriend, artist Hugh Hamrick.

Consequently, though much of the press has been largely favorable, there has been an underlying theme murmuring through much of it: "Will success spoil our antihero, Mr. Sedaris?"

"I think people think I believe my press kit," says Sedaris, settling down for a quick lunch sandwiched between print and radio interviews. "I don't even read my press kit. I don't even read my press." He places a large corduroy tote on the chair next to him, lets out a quick sigh. Dressed in sand-colored slacks, a

brown-and-white checkered shirt, with a red notebook and silver pen peeking out of his breast pocket, he looks as informal as the tossed-off voice that shepherds us through his stories.

Appearances, he knows, are deceiving. "When I leave here when all this is over, I'm going to go back to the little village I live in (in Normandy). There are 12 houses there. This will be very far away."

At 47, it's not lost on him, however, the difference a decade has made. His professional life has been all-consuming.

Of late he's been working on pieces that involve his life in England. "But my accent isn't very good. So I can't really do those live," he says with a sigh.

Sedaris writes for the ear rather than the page. Honing the pieces before audiences—writing and rewriting around reaction. He seldom feels finished with anything.

That obsessiveness haunted the completion of this book, which has an overlay of melancholy and self-reflection laced through the usual absurdity.

"Back when I started reading at this club in Chicago, it never occurred to me that I would have an audience so—and I hate this word—diverse. I thought everyone would be gay and exactly my age. Later I thought they'd just be public-radio-listening Democrats, that they would be like me."

That turned out not to be the case. "One night I look up and I see these two dwarfs. And my thought is: 'Did I say something offensive about dwarfs and now they are here to talk to me about it?' Then I saw this Russian guy. Then a Chinese psychotherapist. And a 14-year-old girl. This is just a small segment of the line. And it really surprises me."

And humbles him as well. "I'm most honored when teenagers come especially. Because they could be doing so many other things and they've made the time to come hear a middle-aged guy talk about the lump on his (derriere)."

## BOOK REVIEW

## Things to worry about and why wallow in it

Reviewed by Carole Goldberg  
THE HARTFORD COURANT

What, you worry?

Ellis Weiner says yes, you should, because worrying is "an exciting, dynamic mental state that, when mastered, can be used to attain happiness, success, romance and fun!"

(We're worried that Weiner's tongue is poked so far into his cheek that he won't be able to get it back out again. And what if his face freezes like that?)

Weiner's new paperback, "The Joy of Worry," is due in stores July 8. Enhanced by the squiggly, trembly, neurosis-made-visible cartoons that Roz Chast is famous for, the book tackles worrying as a cultural phenomenon and wrestles it to the

ground. (But be careful, you could hurt yourself doing that.)

The author is fond of using charts, such as one that outlines the Basic Worry Types—Just Thinking, Fretting, Brooding, Stewing and Panicking—and their emotional characteristics, physical manifestations and "evasive verbal response" to the question, "What's wrong?"

Fretting, he says, is marked by "dawning unhappiness and mild alarm" shown by "outright frowns and occasional pacing" and the reply "I guess ... oh, never mind. It's nothing."

Panicking ratchets up to terror with wild-eyed gesturing and cries of "What do you mean, what's wrong!"

He also explains the benefits of Worrycise, which involves pacing, shuddering, panting, nail-biting and/or

hand-wringing, tossing and turning and stomach churning. If you're going to worry, might as well throw yourself into it, and besides, it'll feel really good when you stop.

(But what if you can't stop? Then what, Ellis?)

A helpful calculator shows whether the emotion worrying you is true love, love-but-not-love, obsessive sicko love, a crush, infatuation or just good old lust.

There are plenty of giggles in this send-up of self-help, inspirational and diet books rolled into one. We think you'll like it.

(But what if you don't? What if you hate it? Does that mean you won't read reviews any more?)

Maybe nothing's bothering you. Don't worry. Another new book offers some inspiration.



Due out July 13 is "100 Most Dangerous Things in Everyday Life

and What You Can Do About Them" (Broadway Books, \$12.95).

In it, author Laura Lee informs us that, "More people are killed annually by teddy bears than by grizzly bears," and offers other worrisome facts along with suggestions on how to avoid hurting yourself.

People, she says, have been injured by rubber bands (don't wind around body parts), paper clips (don't use to clean your ears) and holy water ("often a home for dangerous microbes").

Advice to those seeking to avoid injuries caused by office supplies: "Don't drink or use as medicine anything that you find near the copy machine."

From bagels to lawn ornaments to toilets, peril is everywhere, Lee says. But the most dangerous thing about these books is you might fall down laughing while reading.



# Pa. officials find artwork in schools

By JOANN LOVIGLIO  
AP WRITER

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—To the delight of school officials, a multimillion-dollar treasure trove of 19th- and 20th-century art has been discovered in basements, boiler rooms, closets and hallways in Philadelphia's cash-strapped public schools.

The artworks—1,200 works in all, including paintings, sketches, sculptures, murals, tapestries and ancient artifacts—had been donated to the school system or bought for small sums long ago.

But over the decades, many of them were taken down when the walls were painted and were put into storage, where they apparently were forgotten altogether.

The collection is probably worth tens of millions of dollars, school officials and art experts said.

"This is an incredibly unusual and extraordinary find. From the collection, over 100 of them are very important works," said art consultant Kathleen Bernhardt-Hidvegi of the Chicago-based Corporate Art Source. She conducted the inventory in the city's 264 schools.

The collection includes paintings by Thomas Eakins and Henry Osawa Tanner, both of whom attended Philadelphia's prestigious Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, as well as landscapes by "Pennsylvania Impressionists" Edward W. Redfield, Walter Emerson Baum and Henry B. Snell.

The school system will look into how to preserve and display the collection and make money off of it, perhaps through calendars, coffee-table books and the like.

But Natalye Paquin, school system chief of staff, made it clear that selling some or all of the collection is out of

the question, even though the district has been in financial straits and passed its first balanced budget in seven years this spring.

"Our history is not for sale. It's for the benefit of our children and it's part of our region's history," Paquin said. "Many of these paintings were made here, some only a couple of blocks from the school. That's an exciting way for kids to learn about art, culture and history."

The inventory began quietly in March 2003 and is similar to one conducted for the Chicago school system, where Philadelphia schools chief executive Paul Vallas and Paquin previously worked.

Roughly the same number of works were inventoried during the mid-1990s in the Chicago schools, whose collection was estimated to be worth at least \$20 million. But Philadelphia's collection is "richer in its historical value and

more beautiful," Paquin said.

Some of the artworks were hanging in halls and offices, but many were not as lucky.

"Art often gets taken down when the school is painted and they don't get put up again. So many valuable and important works were forgotten in boiler rooms, locked closets, bicycle rooms," Bernhardt-Hidvegi said. "When we walk into a school and see hooks sticking out of walls, we really get excited. It's a rush."

Many need restoration work after sitting for untold years in dank basements and dusty storage rooms. The damage ranges from slight to severe, and includes dirt, water damage, holes, rips and paint loss.

"The good news is that all of those things can be addressed, all of those works can be brought back to their original condition," Bernhardt-Hidvegi said.

Nearly all the works range from the early 19th century to the present, with a large number dating between 1900 and the late 1930s.

A conservative estimate of their value easily would reach \$20 million to \$30 million, once the art is appraised and authenticated, Bernhardt-Hidvegi said. About 200 of the most significant pieces have already been moved to storage.

School officials are looking this summer for art historians and other experts to form an advisory council to help establish the collection's value, figure out ways to raise money for restoration, determine how to secure and display the collection, and suggest how to use the work as a teaching tool.

Possibilities include a traveling exhibit, postcards and calendars, and the creation of a secure, climate-controlled gallery at the school district's downtown headquarters.

## Vermeer painting sells for more than \$30M

**LONDON** (AP)—The first painting by the Dutch Old Master Johannes Vermeer to be sold at an auction in decades was bought for more than \$30 million Wednesday.

The 10 inch-by-8 inch picture, "Young Woman Seated at the Virginals," far exceeded the reserve price of \$5.5 million when it went under the hammer at Sotheby's in central London.

The work, showing a young woman playing music, with her face turned toward the viewer, was the first Vermeer painting be put up for auction in more than 80 years, Sotheby's said.

A company spokeswoman said it was sold to an anonymous buyer for \$30,101,472, including a buyer's premium. The painting is now the only accepted Vermeer work currently in private hands, Sotheby's said.

There are just 35 other paintings around the world attributed to Vermeer, making auctions of his work

a rare event. The last time a Vermeer was offered for sale at auction was 1921, Sotheby's said.

Like many of the artist's more famous works, it shows off his widely regarded skill with light and color.

But the painting spent most of the 20th century languishing in near obscurity.

Until last year, experts had disagreed about the significance of the work, which had lost its Vermeer attribution after a forgery scandal in the 1940s.

After more than 10 years of extensive research by leading scholars, it finally took its place alongside Vermeer's other paintings.

The old master has proved immensely popular with the public in recent years.

During that time, a major Vermeer exhibition in London sold out, and a film based on a Vermeer painting, "Girl with a Pearl Earring," starring Colin Firth and Scarlett Johansson, was a worldwide hit.



A rare painting by Dutch Old Master Johannes Vermeer entitled 'Young Woman Seated at the Virginals' being auctioned at Sotheby's in central London, Wednesday July 7, 2004. AP

## Museum hosts translucent concrete display

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—It used to be only Superman who could see through concrete walls, but an exhibit at the National Building Museum shows mere mortals can do it too.

Called "Liquid Stone," the show features variations of translucent concrete, a newfangled version of the old construction standby that offers a combination of aesthetics and practicality.

One display is a wall of translucent concrete blocks. When someone stands in front of it and light is shone from behind, the person's shadow can be seen clearly on the other side.

"I think it's beautiful in itself, so it might be attractive in a restaurant or a hotel," said G. Martin Moeller Jr., the museum's senior vice president. "But it might also be used in an indoor fire escape where you wanted light to come through in case of a power failure. It could become a lifesaver."

The translucent blocks are made by mixing glass fibers into the combination of crushed stone, cement and water, varying a process that has been used for centuries to produce a versatile building material. The process was devised by Hungarian architect Aron Losonczy in 2001.

"The idea came from a work of art I saw in Budapest," he said in a

telephone interview from Csongrad in southeast Hungary. "It was made of glass and ordinary concrete, and the idea of combining the two struck me. Then I went to Stockholm to do post-graduate work in architecture and it developed there."

One of the first demonstrations was a sidewalk in Stockholm made of thin sheets of translucent concrete. It looks like an ordinary sidewalk by day but is illuminated at night by lights under it.

A company in Aachen, Germany, called LiTraCon for "light transmitting concrete," makes translucent blocks and plans to have them market-ready this year. Andreas Bittis, in charge of marketing, said that thus far, they have mainly been used in demonstration projects, such as the Stockholm sidewalk.

Bittis has many ideas for practical uses.

"Think of illuminating subway stations with daylight," he suggested in an e-mail. Or using the concrete for speed bumps and lighting them from below to make them more visible at night.

Translucent concrete is strong enough for the uses for traditional concrete, and chemical additives can greatly increase the strength. Moeller pointed out, however, that until demand increases, experimentation continues and production costs fall, the price of

any new product will be significantly higher than similar older products.

Will Wittig, who teaches architecture at the University of Detroit Mercy, has developed concrete panels shown in the exhibit that in some places are only a tenth of an inch thick. He said he has ideas about an all-concrete building, part of which would consist of ordinary opaque concrete and the translucent kind.

Inventor Thomas A. Edison had the idea of an all-concrete house almost a century ago. Though he worked on it for years and spent a lot of money, the idea never caught on.

Today's concrete buildings have skeletons of steel, but Moeller said that could become obsolete with the development of a recently invented self-reinforcing concrete, though that may be many years off.

The Lafarge Group, a French firm that says it is the world's largest producer of concrete, sponsored the exhibit and is showing off a recent variety called "Ductal" that does not need steel reinforcement. The exhibit shows how a light rail terminal has been built in Calgary, Alberta, almost entirely of Ductal, with concrete arches spanning 20 feet and the concrete only a quarter-inch thick.



A prototype wall of LiTraCon, a translucent concrete product is shown in a photo provided by the National Building Museum. AP







## Boy who wears his hair long tussles with dad who doesn't

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

**DEAR ABBY:** I am an almost-14-year-old boy in Iowa. My father thinks my hair is too long and says I should get a summer cut—short like his, of course. The reason, according to my mom, is adults have said how bad my hair looks. I believe if they're going to be so rude as to say that to my mom, I should keep it long to keep them mad.

I get the feeling that my dad is afraid, as a physician, that it's hurting his reputation.

Abby, I'm a good kid. I get straight A's. I'm involved in many constructive activities, and my hair is just a little over my ears, almost touching my T-shirt collar in the back, and my bangs are brushed to the side. Who's right here?

IRRITATED IN IOWA

**DEAR IRRITATED:** You appear to be intelligent and a high achiever. Please don't let a power struggle over the length of your hair ruin your summer. A compromise may be in order. Take a long, hard look in the mirror. If a number of people have said your hair looks "bad," perhaps it could be shaped—a little—into something less shaggy and more flattering. If you're afraid your dad's barber might scalp you, consider consulting your mother's hairdresser. Where I live, it's common to see males in beauty salons because their girlfriends, wives or mothers have sent them there.

**DEAR ABBY:** Every year, on my in-laws' birthdays, I prepare a beautiful dinner, bake or purchase a decorated cake and buy them a nice gift. My parents do the same for my husband.

When my birthday comes, my in-laws acknowledge it with only a card. My husband has talked to them about it (they are well off financially and could afford to take us out for dinner if his mom doesn't want to cook), but they feel that a card is adequate. They say, "People shouldn't do things for others because they expect something back."

Am I wrong to expect some kind of reciprocation? Frankly, I'm hurt.

SLIGHTED IN MISSOURI

**DEAR SLIGHTED:** Your feelings are justified. Although I agree that people should not do things for others because they expect something back, by putting forth no effort on your birthday, they are sending the message that they haven't accepted you as a daughter. Perhaps when their next birthdays roll around, their son should be the one to prepare the dinner, make sure there's a birthday cake and purchase their gift. If he remembers, that is.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I have a great marriage. We're crazy about each other. There's just one thing we can't seem to agree on: He wants to travel to faraway places and I don't. I even suggested that if it means that much to him, he could go with one of his friends or a family member. He insists that he doesn't want to go without me.

This issue isn't hurting our marriage, but it sure isn't helping it, either. Any suggestions?

HOMEBODY IN NORFOLK, VA.

**DEAR HOMEBODY:** Everyone should have your problems—a husband with an appetite for world travel, the pocketbook to back it up, and the desire to share the excitement of the adventure with his own true love. If I were you, I'd quit complaining and start packing.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*



*Dear Abby*

## Boy arrested in deaths at Donaldson ranch

**HONDO, N.M. (AP)—**The 14-year-old son of the manager of ABC newsman Sam Donaldson's New Mexico ranch was arrested Wednesday on charges of murdering his father, stepmother and stepsister, authorities said.

Cody Posey was arrested at a friend's home in the Hondo area around 5 p.m., Sheriff Tom Sullivan said.

The bodies were found at the ranch after Donaldson went to the manager's house on Tuesday and discovered an "obvious crime scene," Sullivan said earlier. Deputies searched the area and found three bodies in a shallow grave.

The dead were identified as Delbert Paul Posey, the teen's father; his stepsister, Mary Lee Schmie, 14; and his stepmother, whose name was withheld because her relatives had not been notified, Sullivan said.

"My wife Jan and I are shocked by the apparent triple homicide that took place on our ranch sometime over the Fourth of July weekend while we were away in Santa Fe," Donaldson said in a statement before the arrest.

The Lincoln County ranch is in rolling pastureland about 125 miles northeast of Las Cruces.

Donaldson, a journalist with ABC since 1967, owns three ranches in south-central New Mexico and has extensive ties to

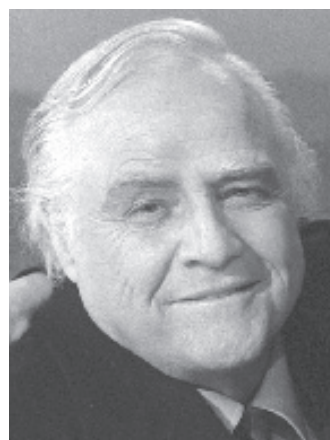


AP  
ABC Television newsman Sam Donaldson questions White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry during the daily White House briefing in the White House briefing room in this Jan. 12, 1998 file photo.

the state. He grew up on a cotton farm in New Mexico and gradu-

ated from New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell.

## Brando cremated following private service



Brando

**LOS ANGELES (AP)—**Actor Marlon Brando was cremated after a private memorial service attended by a small group of family members and friends, his attorney said Wednesday.

Lawyer David Seeley declined to disclose the site of Monday's service.

"Marlon was a really private guy and didn't enjoy the media, and his family is trying to honor that in his death," Seeley said.

The reclusive Brando died July 1 of lung failure at the age of 80.

During his career, he revo-

lutionized Hollywood's image of a leading man, playing street-tough, emotionally raw characters in "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "On the Waterfront." He revived his career a generation later as the definitive Mafia don in "The Godfather."

Brando, who won two Academy Awards for best actor, left a will and was not in debt at the time of his death, Seeley said.

"All those stories regarding his financial status have no credibility at all," Seeley said.

## Rapper Jadakiss faces gun, pot charges

**FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP)—**Rapper Jadakiss faces misdemeanor weapons and drug charges after police discovered two concealed, loaded handguns and marijuana in his recreational vehicle.

An off-duty officer stopped the

RV on Monday after he spotted someone throwing firecrackers from the window, according to police reports. The officer spotted the marijuana during the search and then asked for permission to search the vehicle, said Sgt. Alex Thompson.

During the search, two loaded .45-caliber pistols were found under a pillow. The marijuana weighed less than an ounce.

Jadakiss, whose real name is Jason T. Phillips, was the only one of the eight people in the vehicle to be charged.

## 'Nashville Star' Cotter releases new CD

**OPELIKA, Ala. (AP)—**Brad Cotter's life has been in the fast-forward mode since winning the "Nashville Star" reality TV show earlier this year.

His first major label CD, "Patient Man," was released Tuesday.

"It just goes to show the power of reality TV," said the 33-year-old singer, who was named winner of the USA Network show on May 1.

"Nashville Star" combines country music with reality television by placing contestants in

a wired house on Music Row in Nashville, Tenn., as they compete for a recording contract with Sony Music Nashville.

Cameras capture their daily interaction and weekly live performances, which are judged by USA Network viewers and industry professionals.

"I'd been knocking on doors and turned down for the last seven or eight years. Then comes 'Nashville Star' and things start happening so fast I can hardly keep up," Cot-

ter told the Opelika-Auburn News recently.

The CD features Cotter's single "I Meant To," which he co-wrote and performed during the finale of "Nashville Star."

"Having this CD released is a big step," Cotter said. "It's a lot of the stuff I've written over the years and I hope everyone likes it."

Cotter recorded five gospel albums as a youth and sang around east Alabama. In 1993, he moved to Nashville, where he sang on demo tapes and wrote songs.

## Pierce, Azaria to star in 'Spamalot'

**NEW YORK (AP)—**Broadway will have its own Monty Python gang next year—David Hyde Pierce, Tim Curry and Hank Azaria.

The three actors will star in "Spamalot," a new musical adapted from the comedy film classic "Monty Python and the Holy Grail," it was announced Wednesday.

"Spamalot," directed by Mike Nichols, opens March 10, 2005, at the Shubert Theatre. Preview performances begin Feb. 7. An out-of-town engagement will play at Chicago's Shubert Theatre Dec. 21-Jan. 16.

"Spamalot" has a book by Eric Idle, an original member of the zany British group best known for their TV series, "Monty Python's Flying Circus." Music and lyrics are by Idle and John Du Prez.

Hyde Pierce, the Emmy-winning performer from television's "Frasier," will portray Sir Robin. Curry will play King Arthur, and Azaria will be Sir Lancelot in the show.

## Tickets sell out for final Phish show

**COVENTRY, Vt. (AP)—**Tickets to what jam band Phish says will be their last show are sold out, and scalpers are getting as much as \$915 for admission to next month's two-day festival, which were originally priced at \$150.

Some 70,000 people have tickets to the show, which will be held at the Newport State Airport and surrounding fields in Coventry Aug. 14-15.

Veronica Lusk, sales representative for Internet broker eSeats.com, said she has only about 40 seats left to sell.

Because eSeats.com resells tickets for clients who name their own prices, the Web site lists tickets from \$515 to \$915. Lusk said the demand for even the \$915 seats is there.

"At this price, they are going really fast," she said recently. "We can sell them for this much. People are buying them. I've never really seen general admission tickets for this much."

Brad Feldman, a 23-year-old Chicago business analyst, has been a Phish fan for 10 years. He's hoping to get a ticket, but refuses to pay much more than the price on the stub.

"Phish is different," he said. "When people need a ticket and you have some, you sell it at face. Hopefully good karma comes back."





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# Pastimes

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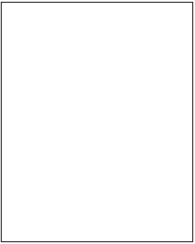












27

Saipan Tribune

# Sports

25

